An Essay
on the
Infinitesimal Doses
and their
Rationale of Action

Respectfully submitted to the Homoeopathic Medical
College of
Pennsylvania
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by
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pd 30.

In all ages of the world, there has been & ever will be among men, a spirit to overthrow, any thing which claim novelty or usefullness, when opposed to old & long established ideas— In the Sciences & in the arts, in the Schools of painting & of medecine, the same hatred of 'novarum rerum' has ever been prominent & will be, so long as human nature continues as it is & men are constituted as now.

From the times of Galileo to those of Harvey, from the Stolid time of Jenner to the more modern days of our illustrious Hahnemann, is this same spirit apparant. Not only is a new theory itself, at once opposed, merely on account of its novelty, but often as in the case of the Homoeopathic system, decided at once to be fallacious, by the popular voice, on account of some natural niceties dependant upon the System & which the practical & prejudiced minds of didactic men cannot at once comprehend & consequently condemned 'prima facie'— Perhaps no reason is offered against

the truths of Homoeopathy more often & more forcibly than
its application of Infinitesimal Doses as curative medicines
often has a wise argument against this Science been conc-
-luded, by the wise 'That the theory which pretends to
cure disease by infinitesimal doses, can be but
less than mocking' - This our opponents often con-
-sider a conclusive argument & one which we can-
-not readily get over - This is not only
an occasional reason, but one which has been
urged repeatedly & is thought quite the Ne plus
ultra by our allopathic friends -

If these same
wise men, who reject the verity of our Science
on this plea, would but remember for a moment,
that the small dose, is by no means a necessary
consequent upon the adoption of the Homoeopath-
-ic principles, they would perhaps not so frequent-
-ly urge it - The Homoeopathic theory
implies no particular question of the size or quantity
of medecine, administered. 'Similia, Similibus Curantur'
has no connection with this at all - Their Employ-
-ment is a conventional usage, adopted by the fol-
-lowers of Hahnemann, for the following reasons -

When our glorious founder commenced his Study of the pathogenesis of drugs, he commenced with large doses. Even as large as those of the old-school (For he himself was originally an allopath!) But God be praised for opening his eyes & suggesting to his great mind, the noble conception of true medical action - This discovery like the reappearing sun in a cloudy day, only shone the more brightly from the preceding gloom.

But he often found that many bad symptoms were produced in the system, dependant alone upon medicinal aggravation, that often, beside the desired effect, much more drug being introduced into the system, than requisite for the arrest of disease, acted injuriously upon the Organism - This is one if not the only reason why the quantity of medicine is reduced - But what possible bearing upon the truth of our Science can this argument have? - In what way does it effect them? - May we not conclude, if this be adduced as an overwhelming argument against us that our opponents are indeed brought to pretty

hard terms for apposition— It is urged that from so small a dose no possible effect can be produced in any way. & many people bravely boast of their swallowing whole boxes of our pills.. without ex-perincing the slightest bad effects & yet I have heard these same leveller- forgetting what they had said in regard to the ineffi-cacy of them (In their hatred to the new-science) state, that bodies of persons. known to have been under Homoeopathic treatment- when exhumed, presented many more evi-idences of decay, than bodies, under previous allopathic treatment- It is disgustingly ridic-ulous- Can these poor deluded mortals, who sneer at the mites, explain why the inflamed eye, can scarcely bear the slightest ray of light. When, in its normal state. the glare of a Sum-mer's sun scarcely affects it?- Or why the inflamed finger winces at the least approxim-ation of heat- when in its natural condition nearly absolute contact is bearable-

We believe, that in the sick body. the susceptibility of all the tissues is wonderfully augmented & that impr-essions of even the most unimaginable power can

be produced, which in the Healthy body would be impossible (The Swallowing of Com: pills. may be the Exception) - That in the Sick organism there is a constant recuperative effort, that the tendency is Ever towards Health, that the slightest assistance to nature is often all sufficient - Careful Observation & judicious Help is all that nature requires to get out of her difficulties - This of course may admit of Exception, no rule without one -

The old-School Physician. however. not content with Helping, must needs interfere in all possible occasions & instead of aiding Her over the abyss. perhaps impedes & endangers Her victorious safe passage -

We believe that our Small doses have the power of assimilating & adapting themselves to the different minute tissues & that their minuteness enables them better conference to the desired Part - We know that some remedies act Specifically (so to speak) upon certain parts of the body - We all know that Thecac: altho' not taken into the Stomach, but rubbed upon a denuded Surface, long way distant from that organ, has produced Emesis. Veratrum

will act directly on parts, towhich it is known to have affinity, altho' not directly applied to those parts— Opium, will act upon the Brain & nervous system, whether applied by the mouth or as a Suppository— The strength of dose, (too) will depend upon the constitution of our Patient; age. Sex— peculiarities of disposition, idiosyncrasies &c. Different Organs require different strength of dose, often. Different Stages of the same disease. perhaps, as in Typhus Sorpor & nervosa.— Some remedies act better upon Some Parts & tissues than other. Aconite. acts better upon the vascular & muscular tissues & in the chest than on the Lymphatic System & Stomach— Diseases of the Heart may require less strong doses than Oedema of the glottis or bilious Colic.— Thus we cannot use any particular remedies, because we like them or any particular dilution, The nature of the case, temperament &c & that of the medicine. at all times deciding— May we be ever be free from that Empiricism which Characterises the popular School. the danger is not Small— Even now many practitioners have their favorite remedies & potencies. arising

undoubtedly from their respective Experiences.
But I hope as our System progresses, we shall
have a proper Standard for our administrations
& classification of Symptoms calling for particular
remedies. If the Homoeopathic Physician
did not consider his doses sufficiently large, could
he not increase them without the slightest violation
of his principles. Does he not range from the
strongest mother tinctures to the highest Potencies?

Hahnemann conceived the idea
that the trituration of medicines for a certain length
of time imparted to them certain medicinal virtues.
The virtues attained by this process, we think, are due
to the perfect division & more complete amalgamation of medicinal particles with some inert
medium, as Saccharum lactis. No other virtues
could be acquired than these, which are enough
in themselves to warrant the trouble. Consequently
this method is generally adopted by Homoeopaths
of the present day. The specified length of
time required for these results, & which has often
Excited the ridicule of our Contemners, was not as
I understand, determined, as the time requisite for the

Elimination of these virtues, but that a regular period might be fixed as a Standard for the different trituations & a consequent uniformity in the various preparations. Whether 40 or 50 minute be that required time. I am unable to say, but I presume if all Homoeopaths had a regular time for each preparation, whether 40 or 50 minute, it would be quite immaterial which they chose. In regard to Potentization. It was supposed by the early Homoeopaths that a certain motion of the hand in so many down Strokes, was at least virtuous in preparing the Dilutions. I presume however as in the case of trituration, perfect affinity & approximation are the only desirable ends, whether you shake up or down, laterally or otherwise, it is of no import. It is also conventional whether we take as proportions 1 grains to 100 of Sac. Lac. or 5 to 100. in the one case the proportion being as 1 to 10. in the other as 1 to 20 also in Dilutions, no limit in proportion farther than if we commence our preparations with the proportion of 1/10. it would not do to continue others by same rule) as 1/20. 5/100 is a very common proportion & one which I have seen used for some years.

In some medicinal substances, their value as therapeutic agents is not developed until a certain degree of trituration has been undergone. Silex in its crude state exhibits very few curative qualities, but when raised to 30.° or higher, no medicine more valuable.. It is often urged that one man is a high dilutionist & another a low, a good time I propose each can be united the one or other alone, but both. The nature of the case, medicine & concomitant circumstances ever determining his selection - For some cases we give a very low dilution & as I before remarked in some chronic cases a very high dilution. I have often do we see marked aggravation in chronic cases from these high dilutions. Bell (30.) has produced terrible increase of pain in a very sensitive & delicate person - Our reason for giving these very high dilutions in long & chronic cases, is dependant on the same fundamental rule of cure (ie) Sensitiveness to medicinal or other Extraneous agencies - that the chronic state necessarily induces this susceptibility & our most infinitesimal dose may delicately coax as it were, the diseased part toward perfect recuperation, when stronger doses & nourishing diet, may complete

what these despised atoms alone could commence. The duration of action differs with the medecines. Some acting weeks, others days or hours only - Does the construction of the various tissues of the body bear no relation to the action of Infinitesimal doses? If such noble structures originate from infinitesimal nuclei. can we not readily imagine corresponding Curative effects being produced from analogous medicinal atoms as primitive causes - Can we not see why minute particles of medecines, with known affinity to different parts & tissues, may incorporate themselves in those parts, if alone from their minuteness? As regards the Specification of Drugs to diffr parts. of which we have little doubt. Do we see no analogy in the building up of the different tissues? of the appropriation of the different components of the blood to the particular & definite systems. designed for them, & those designed for the Nervous system never aiding in building up others - Truly it would appear of Divine Ordination - I cannot but believe that the discoveries going on daily in Microscopical investigations will throw new light upon the power of infinitesimal action - & that every thing demonstrating

the molecular beginning of our bodies. will only be new arguments in favor of the probable power of the Infinitesimals- Surely the Experience of 50 years has proved their Efficacy. & Experience is surely the only true test of the truths of a new theory-

Some have said that 2/3 of cases whether treated Homeopathically or allopathically would get well without any treatment. If they, who say it, use & believe it. Must they not confess the allopathic Physician culpable in administering nauseous drugs. and angering the constitution & avowedly of no benefit in many cases? We may offer them either horn of the dilemma they will choose They must admit the right to be blamed or our superiority of treatment-

Our field of research & acquisition is so extensive it behoves each one of us to be ready for his work. With truth on our side. we can not but succeed. altho' our band is small. yet as the rolling avalanche increases each moment as it advances. So will ever be our progress. Onward. Safely & Successfully -